

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1–3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A protective element, comprising:
a heat-generating member; and
a low-melting metal member on a substrate between a pair of electrodes that pass current through the low-melting member, in which the low-melting metal member is blown out by the heat generated by the heat-generating member;

the low-melting metal member having a groove provided in the center that extends in the direction of current flow that wherein a thin-walled component formed in the low-melting metal member blows out as an effect of the heat-generating member generating heat, so that the lateral cross section along the entire length of the low-melting metal member in the direction of the current flow divides into at least two independent cross sections so that the lateral cross section of at least part of the low-melting metal member divides into at least two independent cross sections.

5. (Canceled)